

Hartford Public Library to Hold Census & Voter Registration Events in September

Hartford Public Library will be holding a series of events at each of our community locations to help anyone seeking to fill out the 2020 Census or register to vote.

Librarians will be on hand to offer assistance filling out the 2020 Census mobile questionnaire and voter registration forms. There will be free books and ice cream available at each event.

Currently, Hartford's Census self-response rate is 46.2%, a number that doesn't include response collected by Census enumerators. The deadline to get a full count for Hartford is September 30, 2020.

The events will take place the following dates:

- September 8, Camp Field Library, 3-5

pm, 30 Camp Field Avenue

- September 15, Camp Field Library, 3-5 pm
- September 16, Park Library, 10 am-12 pm 744 Park Street (Art Box across the Street from the branch)
- September 17, Dwight Library, Time

TBD. 7 New Park Avenue

- September 18, Downtown Library, 12-2 pm, 500 Main Street
- September 23, Park Library, 1:00-3:00 pm, 744 Park Street

For more information, visit hplct.org. To learn more about the 2020 Census, visit census.gov.

The Hartford News

August 27 – Sept. 2, 2020



OPP Light Up The Darkness Run For Equity Saturday Night

Our Piece of the Pie (OPP) will host a free, non-competitive 5k run to raise funds for the Hartford Youth Service Corps this Saturday, August 29. The Light Up The Darkness run will begin at 8 p.m. sharp at the Pump House at Bushnell Park and end at Agave on Allyn Street for a socially distant celebration. The run will adhere to state/city guidelines surrounding public gatherings. Please remember to bring your own hand sanitizer and face coverings!

The focus of this event is to raise awareness for the need of Equity in our communities and to raise awareness about the work of Our Piece of the Pie and the Youth Service Corps in Hartford. The event will be co-hosted by NODADBOD, a local organization focused on self-betterment.

The Youth Service Corps, powered by OPP, is an integral part of a Hartford plan engaging youth in their futures, education, and employment through a year of paid service-learning projects. Corps members have completed over 250,000 hours of community service-learning projects, earning nearly \$3 million in wages.

For more information on Saturday's event, go to: opp.org/lightupthedarkness/

Take Michelle Obama's Advice: VOTE EARLY!

BY DONNA SWARR

In Michelle Obama's Democratic convention speech she strongly advised people to vote by mail or vote early, ahead of the November elections. "Fair and safe voting is going to be more important than ever this year", she said.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, many of us voted in the primary using the mail-in ballot, some by U.S. mail and some used the ballot boxes outside City Hall. Our Hartford State Representatives have requested more than the two in front of City Hall, and it appears that we will get 2-4 additional ballot boxes for Hartford. The locations haven't been shared as yet.

Michelle Obama also called on Americans "to make sure they and those around them are registered to vote, and are educated on their options for early voting." So here I am to say—just do it. Denise Merrill, Secretary of State, is sending out ballots on September 8-11, but you can also request one. If I don't receive my ballot by Oct 16th, I'm going to ask the Town Clerk's Office to provide one, and recommend you do the same. You can pick one up or they can mail it to you. I think we've all decided who we're going to vote for, so don't wait; vote early. For those who aren't in a high risk group or live with someone who is, go ahead and vote at your polling

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Pratt Street Rap

Hartford's own Ty-HookZ and CrissB.Amazing (together known as AQMNI) perform on Pratt Street in Downtown Hartford on Friday, August 21. The performance is part of the Pratt Street Patio, sponsored by the Hartford Business Improvement District (BID). For the ongoing event, Pratt Street is closed to traffic from 3 pm - 9pm, Monday through Thursday, and from 3pm - 11 pm on Fridays and Saturdays. There is live music from 5 pm - 6 pm every Friday. Tables and chairs are set up on the street and visitors are welcome to come eat food from local restaurant or a picnic which they've brought themselves. (Hart photo)

Dance Festival Sept. 5 in Bushnell Park

A coalition of several local dance groups will host the Columns Dance Festival on Friday, September 5. The event had originally been scheduled for August 14 but was postponed. From 2-6 pm there will be dance classes in a variety of styles, including contemporary, combo, and ballet. This will be followed at 7:30 pm by a performance featuring dancers from all over the region, including Ballet Hartford, Royalezyr Dance Company, Distinct Movement, IMMIX Dance Project, Moxie Dance Company, Ekklesia Contemporary Ballet and the Sonia Plumb Dance. There are admission fees for both the classes and the performance. To order tickets, go to columnsdance.com/events-1/columns-dance-festival.

Hartford...Once Upon a Time



This photo will certainly stir up many memories for any long-time resident of the Asylum Hill neighborhood. Pierce Pharmacy was located at the corner of Sigourney and Ashley Streets, across from Sigourney Square Park, for well over a century and was one of the true pillars of the community. Pharmacist Richard Bromberg, who owned the store from 1964-2001, passed away in May of this year. Please turn to page 4 for a story about Richard and the pharmacy down through the years. (Photo courtesy of John Mascolo)

NEWS BRIEFS

Urban League Virtual Career Expo August 29

The Urban League of Greater Hartford's Young Professionals group will host "Powered to Success," a virtual career expo and back-to-school celebration from 11 am - 5 pm on Saturday, August 29. The program will feature online and on-site STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, And Math) related activities. Keynote speaker will be Dr. Kevin Khao Cates, a Grammy-nominated music producer and founder of Bridge DA Gap Movement, Inc. For more information, go to: hopin.to/events/ypsteam2020.

Asylum Hill Clean-Up Saturday

The Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association (AHNA) will hold a "Love Your Block" Clean Up and Celebration this Saturday, August 29, from 4-7 pm at Grace Lutheran Church 46 Woodland Street, Hartford (rain date: Sunday August 30, same time). Volunteers are asked to gather at 3:30 pm at Grace for instructions. The Adopt your Block Trailer will distribute bags, gloves, masks, grab sticks, etc. Volunteer teams will tackle areas within four city blocks, from Niles to Sigourney, to Farmington, down to Woodland, back to Niles. Volunteers will work from 4-6 pm, then return to Grace for the celebration from 6-7pm. There will be food, music and talks about the environment. To volunteer, contact Lynn Johnson, lynnsilverwolf@gmail.com. This event is co-sponsored by the City of Hartford, "Love Your Block" project, Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association, Environmental Action Committee of Immanuel Congregational Church, Zen Solar, Knox Inc., Hands on Hartford, Blue Earth Compost and Grace Lutheran Church.

Frog Hollow Clean-up Sunday

Volunteers are needed for a clean-up of the Frog Hollow neighborhood this Sunday, August 30, from 9 am - 12 noon. Volunteers are asked to gather at the HartBeat Trailer at the corner of Park Terrace and Capitol Avenue. Masks, gloves and trash-pickers will be provided to those who don't bring your own. The clean-up will kick off the new mural painting project on Capitol Avenue.

Hands On Hartford Labor Day Free Lunch

Hands On Hartford will hold its annual

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Justice for Danny Campaign Keeps the Pressure On

When Luis “Danny” Rodriguez, was killed by a hit-and-run driver on Wethersfield Avenue on August 13, his family and friend started a campaign to make Hartford Streets safer. On Saturday, August 22, the group held a march from the spot where Danny was killed to Bushnell Park. Some protestors walked, many rode bicycles and motorcycles while others followed in a long line of cars. Danny’s mother, Rosa Santiago (above, center) marched along, pushing her walker. Two of his sisters, Joselyn and Loudes Rodriguez carried a Puerto Rican flag on the way to Bushnell Park. (Hart photos)



Riverfront Recapture Fall Rowing Classes

If you’ve ever wanted to get out on the beautiful Connecticut River and keep fit at the same time, there’s no better time than now. Riverfront Recapture is starting a new round of rowing classes. Class fees vary. To register, go to: riverfront.org/rowing. Classes are held at Riverside Park in Hartford.

Youth Fall Sculling:

September 8 – October 29: Coached sculling sessions for youth rowers are available on Mondays /Wednesdays or Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 – 4:20 pm or 4:30 – 5:50 pm. Please remember to register for the appropriate level class, based on the categories below:

Outdoor Erging (Rowing Machines)

September 7 – October 4 | Sundays, 8:30 – 10 am: Looking for another way to stay fit and want to stay outside? Our weekly outdoor erging class is just what you need. With each stroke on the ergometer you are actively stretching, increasing fitness, building strength, right outside the boathouse in Riverside Park.

Coached Sculling:

September 7 – October 4: Coached sculling sessions for adult individuals and doubles are available on the following days/times: M/W or Tu/Th: 6 – 7:30 am, 8:30 – 10 am, 11 am – 12:30 pm, 6 – 7:30 pm, and Sat and Sun: 8:30 – 10 am.



Politically Speaking

A Fresh Look at Issues Facing our Region & State

BY MIKE MCGARRY

Insurance Companies Redline Hartford

Editor’s Note: This column first appeared in The Hartford Courant as an Op-ed piece on Sunday, August 23, 2020.

In this time of reflection based on what the country has been through in the past six months, insurance companies that charge usurious car insurance rates for city residents, 86 percent of whom are minorities, should be confronted.

It is a modern form of redlining, defined by the Merriam-Webster Dictionary as, “the illegal practice of refusing to offer credit or insurance in a particular community on a discriminatory basis.” While insurance companies do not deny car insurance to city drivers, the higher rates they charge puts it out of the economic reach of many Hartford residents.

Based on some basic research, it is probable that approximately \$20-\$25 million is pulled from the pockets of Hartford residents through these dire rates for city drivers based on an outdated (1977) territorial rating system. In 1978, the State Insurance Commissioner, Joseph Mike, called the practice discriminatory. Back then, Hartford had a much broader ethnic and economic mix. Today, much of the multi-million surcharge falls on minorities, the elderly and the poor.

The reasoning of the insurance companies for the higher rates back in 1977 was that Hartford and similar cities had higher accident rates, due primarily to congestion. But that congestion is not caused solely by city drivers. Every day, thousands of motorists from other town come into the city to work, eat at restaurants, attend events, etc. The congestion is caused by drivers from throughout the region, so it is unfair and discriminatory to charge only Hartford residents for the results of that congestion.

Fortunately, the solution is relatively simple: base the rates not on the city of Hartford but Hartford County as a whole, as is done in many other parts of the country.

Examples of the result of the current unfair system are easy to find. For instance, a retired public defender with a perfect credit rating and a spotless driving record saw his car insurance premium increase by about one third this past year. When he asked the insurance company why, their response was, “Because you live in Hartford.”

A woman who moved ten blocks from West Hartford to Hartford saw her rates double, even though she parked her car in an unprotected spot in West Hartford but had valet parking in a secured garage in Hartford. She also asked her insurance company why. “Because you moved to Hartford,” was the response.

Most people just pay the higher rates, but others try to skirt the law by driving without insurance, register-

ing their car in another town or some other stratagem. Recently, the City of Hartford Tax Assessor’s office identified over 3,500 private vehicles in Hartford as being unregistered, uninsured or otherwise illegal in some way. In discussions with a few people, the overwhelming reason given for cheating was the city’s high car insurance rates.

Many of those driving illegally withdraw from full participation in society out of fear of being caught, which can result in hefty fines, the loss of the vehicle and, possibly, imprisonment. They don’t register to vote, don’t fill out the census, don’t drive outside of Hartford (where the chances of being pulled over are higher), and don’t apply for government and charitable programs that could improve their education and quality of life. They drop off the grid as much as possible, and society as a whole suffers through such things as unpaid taxes and decreased participation in civic life. And those who are forced to live “under the radar” often suffer greatly as well. For instance, they can rarely get loans, and if they do, their poor credit rating means sky-high interest rates on the loan. In short, having a large segment of society that avoids full participation in that society hurts everyone.

Dropping off the grid does involve a certain lack of personal responsibility. Some people really cannot afford the insurance rates, but others could and instead choose to spend their money on other things. And we shouldn’t forget that most Hartford residents who can’t afford the high cost of maintaining a car in the city simply choose to do without one, relying on public transportation or simply walking to where they have to go, which limits their opportunities for employment, education and many other things.

So, first, let’s level the playing field. Bring Hartford’s car insurance rates into line with those in other towns through country-wide rates. Then those who decide to skirt the law will be doing so out of choice and not economic hardship.

The state legislature should, in the coming January session, ask the State Insurance Department, to suggest proper changes to the territorial rating system. It should also address the advent of self-driving cars. The auto industry has stated that these cars will significantly reduce the number of accidents, which should reduce car insurance rates for all drivers.

Again, in this time of deep reflection, it is primarily up to the insurance companies to get it right and adjust the rates. And it is up to our government leaders, both city and state, and ordinary citizens like you and I to demand that they do so. Once the system is fair, it will also be fair for our government to demand strict compliance with the law.

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PublishersJon Harden
.....Lynne Lumsden
Managing EditorAndy Hart
Advertising Manager.....Josephine Finocchiaro
Copy Editor/Staff Writer.....Anne Goshdigian
Spanish EditorWilfredo Ayala
Contributing WritersMike McGarry
.....David Samuels
.....Donna Swarr
.....Tom Swarr
.....Maricarmen Cajahuaringa

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563 Franklin Ave., Hartford, CT 06114
(860) 296-6128 FAX 866-875-3785 • E-Mail:
hartfordnews@aol.com

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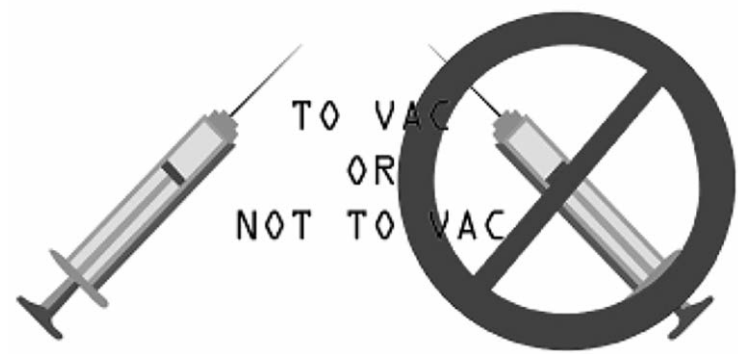
Will You Get Vaccinated?

Rolling the dice when it comes to shots in the arm

BY TOM SWARR

COVID-19 has ravaged our economy, triggered a partisan debate on masks, and poses great uncertainty and fear for the safety of students and teachers as schools reopen. We are tiring of social distancing and anxious to reboot the economy. Yet, one-third of Americans say they would refuse a vaccine. Anti vaxxers are building on their opposition to the MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine to fight yet another conspiracy to poison our children.

autism, and because autism diagnoses were increasing as the recommended number of vaccinations also increased, the link was obvious. Only again, peer reviewed studies have thoroughly debunked this link. Denmark provided a natural study. In response to concerns about mercury, thimerosal was removed from their vaccines in 1992. There was no change in the rate of autism before and after the switch. The increase of autism after the switch was similar to other areas still using thimerosal.



The so-called link between the MMR vaccine and autism has been thoroughly debunked by peer reviewed studies, yet many people trust internet experts over public health officials. The distrust of science has hindered the response to the pandemic. The theory that MMR causes autism was crafted by Andrew Wakefield. He originally was studying Crohn’s disease, until he read an article that measles could cause ulcers. After failing to convince any agency to fund his efforts to link measles to Crohn’s disease, he switched targets. In 1998, he co-authored a paper in Lancet, a prestigious medical journal. The paper proposed a theory that the MMR vaccine would lodge in the small intestine, causing a “leaky gut.” Opioid peptides naturally produced during digestion would escape through the leaky gut, breach the blood-brain barrier, and overwhelm the developing child’s brain causing autism. A special press conference was called to announce the results, and Wakefield urged use of the MMR vaccine be discontinued until proven safe.

Never mind that the published paper actually concluded “we did not prove an association between measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine and syndrome described.” Never mind the “opioid excess” theory for causing autism had been widely discredited. Never mind that the children studied in the “research” had been referred by a law firm suing the pharmaceutical companies for damages. Never mind that Wakefield was paid £435,643 (or more than \$900,000 in current US\$) by that law firm to help build support for their claims. Subsequent studies failed to find any indication of vaccine in the gut or any indication that the combination of three vaccines in one shot was causing problems.

Enter mercury. Thimerosal, or ethylmercury, was used as a sterilizing preservative in vaccines. Because mercury poisoning caused some cognitive disorders similar to

However, none of the above means we should relax and assume all vaccines are safe. There are cautionary lessons as well. During the polio epidemic, there was a public demand for government action similar to current demands for a vaccine for the coronavirus. When the Salk vaccine was declared safe and effective, the government licensed six companies to produce enough vaccine to inoculate all the children before the upcoming polio season. Sadly, in the rush, one of the companies released vaccines contaminated with the live virus. Children were stricken with polio, resulting in paralysis and death. The failure was attributed to inadequate safety guidelines and lack of oversight. The company was not required to report to health officials that it had discarded one-third of the batches produced because they failed safety tests.

The confusion over mercury also offers lessons. Vaccines once declared safe are assumed always safe. But as a disease declines in incidence, the value of being vaccinated seems less important and any side effects or harms of a vaccine become more important. Public health officials did a poor job communicating potential concerns about mercury, allowing people to imagine their worst fears. They were also slow to listen to legitimate concerns of the public. The real danger of vaccines is when political forces intervene in public health. There is pressure for a “vaccine win” prior to the November election.

The solution is to invest in a robust and independent public health infrastructure that provides timely information and that can be trusted to always put health and safety first. We need to learn to trust the general consensus of peer reviewed science. The image of a lone researcher fighting the evil and stifling establishment plays to our American psyche. But all viruses follow the rules of science. Get the vaccine, but not if it is launched to fanfare prior to the election.



Have you been counted in the 2020 U.S. Census? If not, Hartford might get only 50% of the federal funding it needs

BY DONNA SWARR

According to the Hartford Courant, as of August 4th, Hartford’s response rate to the 2020 United States Census was 44.6 %, which is among the lowest response rates in the country. If Hartford remains undercounted to this extent, the city will get about 50% of what funding we could have and need.

Why should you care about providing information to the Census? Well, are you mightily annoyed about our roads? Do you use any of the following: senior center, health services, SNAP, city day-care or preschool, have a child in school, take the bus or train or travel over a bridge, use the

library? All federal funding is distributed by a percentage of whatever the whole amount is.

So, if you don’t respond –which a lot of Hartford residents have not yet done--we won’t get the amount we need. The state receives an allocation of funding for all of these much-needed services, which is then divided up and distributed to the towns and cities.

Right now there are census workers knocking on the doors of homes that have not responded. If you don’t plan to answer your door to provide the census worker the information, you can still do it online via your phone or another device at my2020census.gov/.

Before you start, keep in mind that once you begin the form you have to finish; it doesn’t save your entries. Be sure to also use the directional arrows in the program, not the browser arrows. If you would like to see a sample census form, the Hartford Public Library can help, hplct.libguides.com/ld.php?content_id=51871512.

Don’t complain about anything if you don’t submit your information, because according to the Census...you don’t exist. You have until September 30th to send it in any way you want: send back the census form in the mail, answer your door, or online. Just do it.



Protest Becomes Poetry

The Connecticut Black Parade held a rally at the State Capitol Friday afternoon, August 21, followed by a walk down Albany Avenue and a gathering at Keney Park. Earlier in the day, the organization had held a clean-up of Albany Avenue. Among the speakers at the rally on the steps of the State Capitol was Versatile PoetiQ (above), shown here with Wayne Rawls holding the Black Lives Matter flag. The event was organized by Hartford videographer and activist Ephraim Adamz. Other speakers included Tiffany Allecia and Shawn Woke. (Hart photo)



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New editions are posted Wednesday evening.

OUR NEIGHBORHOODS: ASYLUM HILL

Remembering Richard Bromberg and Pierce Pharmacy

Before the corporate pharmacies like CVS and Walgreen’s rolled into town, Hartford was full of small, locally owned drug stores. There was Sless on Blue Hills Avenue, Maxwell’s on Albany Avenue and Sousa’s on Park Street. Franklin Avenue had Rialto’s and Maple Avenue had Freeman Drug.

In Asylum Hill there was the famous Arthur’s (“Always Open, Never Closed”) on Farmington Avenue and the smaller but no less popular Pierce Pharmacy, located in the heart of the neighborhood for over a century at the corner of Sigourney and Ashley Streets.

Memories of Pierce are inextricably intertwined with Richard Bromberg, its chief pharmacist and owner from 1964-2001, when he sold the store to CVS. The site is now occupied by Williams Deli & Grocery.



Richard Bromberg, owner and operator of Pierce Pharmacy from 1964-2001.

Richard was born in Danbury on August 5, 1938. His family later moved to Belden Street in Hartford, and then to Andover Street.

As a young man, Richard had always dreamed of becoming a pharmacist. After graduating from Hartford High School, he enrolled in the UCONN School Of Pharmacy and obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1960.

While attending school, Richard worked part-time at G. Fox & Company. He also worked as an order taker at D.A. Rosen & Co., a wholesale pharmacy. One of his customers at the latter job was A.D. Pierce & Son Pharmacy, which was owned by Morris Feldman at that time. Morris learned Richard lived in the neighborhood and offered him a position as a pharmacist, which he accepted. Richard filled about 30 prescriptions a day from 8am to pm, six days a week and sundays 8am to 2pm. In addition to filling prescriptions, the store also sold many sundries and newspaper like *The Hartford Courant*, *Hartford Times*, *Boston Herald*, *New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*, along with beer, wine and liquor.

After about a year, Feldman offered to sell the store to Richard. After finding the funding, Richard bought the store in 1964.

A.D. Pierce & Son Pharmacy already had a long history when



(Above) An early view of Pierce Pharmacy, which first opened at the corner of Sigourney and Ashley Streets in Hartford’s Asylum Hill neighborhood in 1887. The store is shown below in 1964.



Richard bought the store. It was founded in 1887 by Austin Pierce as what was then commonly known as an apothecary. When it first opened, the pharmacy had a marble floor, fancy tin ceiling, dark mahogany fixtures and two eight arm gas chandeliers. There was a very ornate soda fountain that served soda made from simple syrups and ice cream. Much of the prescriptions were handmade compounds, suppositories were made in molds. The pharmacy also had a still that was used for extracting plant materials to be used in herbal medications.

The pharmacy operated by Austin Pierce was later handed down to Burt Pierce who sold to Morris Feldman in 1950.

Soon after Richard took over in 1964, he transformed the antique apothecary into a modern drug store, with a drop ceiling, carpeting, modern lighting and large display cases where you could better see the merchandise. He also added a musical sound system. These changes were well accepted by the neighborhood. Two years later, Richard’s business had outgrown the size of the store and he put on an addition.

At this time he was filling about

100 prescriptions a day. He offered free delivery service for prescriptions and other merchandise. He even delivered if someone could not afford to pay. He kept a little black book but was rarely repaid in full. It did not matter to Richard Bromberg. When Asylum Hill started to suffer from economic stresses in the 1970s and 1980s, Richard stayed with the neighborhood, while many other businesses moved out. He loved his neighborhood, its people and served them with great respect.

Richard continued to operate Pierce Pharmacy until he sold it to CVS in 2001. He worked for them at the CVS on Farmington Avenue until he retired in April 2011. Many of his original customers followed him there because they held him in such high regard.

Richard Bromberg passed away on May 30, 2020, to the sadness of not only his family but also the countless people in Hartford who knew firsthand of his kindness and warmth. May he rest in peace.

This article was adapted from a story written by Richard Bromberg’s son, John Mascolo.

SNAP Households May Qualify for Food Replacement Benefits Following Power Outages

If your SNAP household experienced food loss due to the power outages caused by recent Tropical Storm Isaias, you may qualify for food replacement SNAP benefits. To apply, you will need to complete two forms to demonstrate proof of food loss. You can access both forms, in English and Spanish, by clicking on endhungerct.org/services/snap/. The deadline to apply for these benefits has been extended to September 3rd, 2020 due to a recent federal waiver Connecticut received. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call the End Hunger CT! SNAP Call Center at 866-974-7627 (bilingual English and Spanish).

WHEELS

Justice moves slowly while calls for change stall on Wethersfield Avenue

COMMENTARY BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN

Reactive but not proactive: That’s how the City of Hartford has always chosen to deal with the traffic issues that continue to plague Wethersfield Avenue and other “hot spot” streets where speeding, racing, and flouting of the law continue to endanger both pedestrians and law-abiding drivers, as well as entire neighborhoods. Oh, we get skewed, dated, and incomplete statistics from HPD in a lame attempt at “cover-your-ass damage control”, especially when someone is severely injured or killed by a lawbreaking driver. Such was the case following the brutal killing of bicyclist Luis (“Danny”) Rodriguez on that avenue on August 13th. As a 7-year resident of that street, I knew exactly what would happen after the media—print, visual, and social—put it out there, and when Danny’s bereft family rallied and marched more than once to call attention to the problem and seek more enforcement from city police. First came the portable speed limit sign in front of Bulkeley indicating that it’s a 25 mph zone. That only shows up after someone’s killed by a car, and it’s usually gone within two weeks. And besides, just about nobody drives 25 mph or less on this street; if you do, cars will pass you on the right. Then a couple of young walking beat cops appeared on the street—a sight about as rare as snow in August; that won’t last, either. And for the past two weekends, a fleet of black traffic enforcement SUV’s have also lined the avenue, not to deter speeders and other scofflaws, but we’re told they’re doing drug and alcohol random checks. HPD, no doubt per orders from the City, fed the Hartford Courant a trail of BS that led readers to the conclusion that Wethersfield Avenue is not a “speedway”. Hey! They couldn’t print it if it wasn’t true, right? Don’t make me laugh. Did anyone actually come down here and poll the living, breathing, sighted folks who live on this street about the out-of-control speeding and other

egregious reckless driving practices? Of course not! That wouldn’t fit the City’s and HPD’s narrative.

Here’s another thing. Over a week ago, HPD found the white Audi that killed Danny while it was racing with another car, and they say it’s not a stolen car. That means they know who owns that Audi, yet they have made no arrests nor given out any further information about the suspected murderer. How slow can justice be? I’m sure they have their reasons, but that’s of no comfort to Danny’s family.

Last weekend there was a march and rally from the site of the vehicular homicide to Bushnell Park, where Danny’s sister Aracelis Noelia Colon made an eloquent and impassioned plea to the as-yet-unnamed hit-and-run speeding driver who took her brother’s life. “This goes straight to the people responsible for my brother’s death; I forgive you. No, I’m not excusing you for what you did. I’m forgiving you for me—to set myself free from hating you. I know my brother’s at peace, but tell me; are you? Are those that love you at peace? You didn’t just destroy my family, you also destroyed yours. How can you live with yourself knowing you left a man dead on the ground in pieces?—literally in pieces!” She closed her address to the assembled crowd with a message to the City of Hartford. “You can do better. How many more lives have to be taken for you to take the steps needed to prioritize your residents’ and visitors’ safety? You either stand against those breaking the law by incorporating actions into your words and promises, or stand with them by continuing to do what you’ve been doing so far...which is absolutely nothing.”

Being reactive means that no initiative is taken to make strategic decisions, and then you merely respond to a situation or what happens. That’s us, readers—that’s Hartford all the way.



CRT Promotes Census Participation

The Community Renewal Team (CRT) and Christmas Wish CT recently held an ice cream give-away at the Albany Branch of Hartford Public Library to promote the U.S. Census. Hartford’s response rate to the 2020 Census is one of the lowest in the nation at less than 50 percent (see story, page 3). Census statistics are used to determine federal funding levels for local governments, among other things. (photo by CRT/Jason Black)



Helping Hands in a Time of Need

Shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic struck Hartford back in March, a group of volunteers in Parkville began collecting food and distributing it every Tuesday and Wednesday to seniors and others in need in the Frog Hollow and Parkville neighborhoods. The initiative has been led by State Representative Minnie Gonzalez (above, center; with Ramon Arroyo and Parkville Senior Center Executive Director David Yonan). Shown below packing groceries is volunteer Marisol Monserrate. (Hart photos)



Library to Host School Choice Info Sessions September 16 and 29

Hartford Public Library (HPL) will be hosting virtual School Choice Information Sessions on Wednesday, September 16 and Tuesday, September 29. Representatives from the School Choice program will be on hand to answer questions about enrollment for the 2021-22 school year. Both sessions will take place from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. To register for the event, e-mail schoolchoiceoffice@hplct.org, visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8603069757>, or call 860-306-9757 or 860-969-9148. Participants will be eligible to enter a raffle to win backpacks filled with school supplies and family

work best for their child. Once they select a school, school choice coordinators can help them negotiate the application, response and registration processes. “There is a lot that goes into making the decision,” said Busgith. Information will be presented on:

- What the school choices are
- Who is eligible to apply
- How families can explore, apply and respond when it comes to school choice
- Where and when families can apply
- Zones and transportation
- The distinctions between



pizza dinner certificates. “Parents should attend because it will give them all the information they need to make decisions about the upcoming school year and to learn what they need for the current school year,” said Rajranie Busgith, school choice coordinator. The process of signing up for schools can be a nuanced one, Busgith said. She encourages parents to explore what school will

Hartford and non-Hartford residents. The event will conclude with a question and answer period. For more information about school choice visit HPL’s information page at <https://www.hplct.org/library-services/parents/school-choice-assistance> or the Regional School Choice Office website at ChoiceEducation.org.

State Doubles Funding for Rental Assistance Program, Extends Eviction Moratorium to Oct. 1

Governor Ned Lamont recently announced that he is doubling funding for the previously announced rental assistance program for Connecticut residents impacted by COVID-19 from \$10 million to \$20 million. That program provides payments to landlords on behalf of approved tenant applicants, is administered by the Connecticut Department of Housing in partnership with the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) and 11 housing counseling agencies across the state. The additional \$10 million brings the total amount of state funding for renters, homeowners, and residential landlords impacted by COVID-19 up to \$43.3 million. In addition to the \$20 million rental assistance program, that funding provides mortgage relief to homeowners (\$10 million), supports renters who were facing eviction before the pandemic (\$5 million), rehouses people exiting homelessness or incarceration (\$5.8 million), and

supports renters excluded from federal assistance because of their or their loved ones’ immigration status (\$2.5 million). Interested tenants can learn more on the department’s website or by calling 1-860-785-3111 during regular business hours. In addition, Governor Lamont announced that he will soon sign an executive order that will extend to October 1 the residential eviction moratorium protecting tenants who were current on their rent at the beginning of the pandemic. That extension will bring this important measure to protect public health in line with neighboring states’ and provide the federal government additional time to deliver much-needed assistance to renters and homeowners. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development recently extended protections for tenants in homes with mortgages backed by the Federal Housing Authority through the end of the year.



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www.jesusislordradio.info

CRT Financial Literacy Class

Register now for the Community Renewal Team’s (CRT) 2020 Financial Literacy Institute. The free online classes begin on Sept. 8, 2020, and the program is open to adults (18 and over).


This 14-week intensive online course provides an in-depth and engaging way to educate yourself and your family about tough topics in your financial world.

During CRT’s Financial Literacy Institute, participants explore many aspects of financial fitness, including: budgeting and savings; establishing and/or rebuilding credit; investment planning; dealing with the financial stress of underemployment and unemployment; protecting yourself and your assets through insurance, and so much more.

Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings (from 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM) from September 8 to December 8, 2020.

Space is limited - register now: crtct.org/en/need-help/money/your-money

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News Briefs

Continued from page 1

Labor Day Community Lunch on Monday, September 7, from 11:30 am -1:30 pm, at the organization’s headquarters at 55 Bartholomew Avenue in Hartford’s Parkville neighborhood. Lunches may be taken “to go” or eaten outside, where limited seating is available. The menu includes BBQ chicken, pasta salad, roasted corn, baked beans and ice cream. There will also be free books for the kids and gift bags with toiletries. The lunch is free to those in need. For

more information, call Hands On Hartford at 860-728-3201.

Outdoor Summer Pops Concert on Sept. 9

Cuatro Puntas will present Golden Scroll Soloists and Peruvian guitarist and vocalist Pedro Cirilo Coral in a free concert from 12 - 1:30 pm on Wednesday, September 9, in the Hoffman Courtyard at Hartford Stage, 50 Church Street, Hartford. Golden Scroll Soloists have been

wowing audiences with a variety of styles for 15 years. Similar in style to the Vitamin String Quartet of YouTube fame, the Golden Scroll Soloists meld pop, classical, and jazz into an upbeat string quartet experience.

City Council Virtual Public Comment and Meeting September 13

On Monday, September 13, the Hartford Court of Common Council will hold a virtual public comment and City Council meeting via the WebEx platform. These meetings will be broadcasted and recorded by Hartford Public Access Television (hpatv.org, HPA TV Facebook Page, or channel 96 for Comcast/Xfinity customers). The public comment session will start at 6 pm and the meeting at 7 pm. To sign up to speak, please reach out to David Grant (860) 757-9738, david.grant@hartford.gov. The deadline to register is 5:20 pm, Monday, September 13th. Once signed up, participants will be given a conference number and are asked to call in by

5:40pm to receive further instructions.

“Love Hartford” South End Clean-up Sept. 19

The Love Hartford Anti-Litter Campaign will host a clean-up of the South End from 10 am - 12 noon on Saturday, September 19. This event is a collaboration with

the Hartford Chamber of Commerce and HYPE (Hartford Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs). Coffee from Chamber Member Story and Soil will be provided. Pizza will be provided at the end of the clean up.

Help Line for Domestic Violence Victims

To connect those who may be experiencing domestic violence with services, resources, and assistance the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) created CT Safe Connect. Safe Connect is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a week via:

- Call or text: 888-774-2900
- Email: safeconnect@ctcadv.org
- Web chat : (https://app.purechat.com/w/CTSafeConnect)

This network has helped callers with concerns relating to accessing basic needs, rent/mortgage payments, food insecurity, and emotional/mental well-being.

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Luggage for sale, charcoal color, on wheels or carry by hand. Two outside compartments. Asking \$15. Call 860-296-9953.

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Four white, indoor/outdoor chairs in excellent condition. \$10. Call 860-296-9953.

George Foreman Grill

George Foreman Grill, 14” x 20”, stands up to 36” tall. Electric grill in excellent condition. Asking \$40. Call 860-296-9953.

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Funding Available

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LG Pest Control

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Free Medicare Check Up

For open enrollment. Better plans available for 2020. Call Derrick Shirley, 860-371-8969.

Join the Business Housing Solutions Team!

Join our team helping real estate owners, landlords and residential home buyers. Handmen and contractors (call). Retired person with spare time, come join us in the CT area. 860-525-4554.

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REAL ESTATE

Apartments for Rent

Large studio & 1-BR. All include heat and hot water, parking, stove & fridge, washer & dryer in basement. Section 8 welcome. No pets, plenty of closet space. Call Imer at 917-681-5785 or Pablo at 860-983-9444.

2-BR Apt. for Rent

For Rent: 2 bedroom unit, 3rd floors, completely renovated, with new stove, new frig, new beautiful bathroom new wood floors throughout parking for 1 car, quiet street, Morton Street, on busline and close to shopping. Section 8 welcome. Available A.S.A.P. \$1000.00. Please call 646-286-6442.

295-297 Garden St. Hartford

Large well maintained 3 bedroom apartments, 1st & 2nd floor, quiet building. Cold flat \$900 monthly. 1 month security 1 month rent. Section 8 Welcome. Call 860-882-3650.

Hartford South End

1 & 2 bedroom apartments. Appliances included. Parking. Call John 860-805-4111.

Room for Rent

Furnished room with utilities and kitchen privileges. \$130 weekly. 860 560-8200.

Hartford, North End

3 bedrooms, 44 Edgewood St., 2nd floor. Large rooms. Stove, fridge, washer/dryer hookups in kitchen. Very nice condition. Cold flat. \$1,100 monthly plus one month security deposit. Section 8 welcome. Call 860-983-5939.

Apartments for Rent

Efficiency, 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedrooms available. Walking distance to shopping, on bus line, off-street parking. Small pets welcome. Section 8 Welcome. Rates Starting at: Studio- \$615; 1BR- \$700; 2BR- \$800; 3BR- \$900; 4BR-\$1000. Call 860-549-3000.

Apartment for Rent

1, 2 & 3 bedroom apartments on Arnold Street and Deerfield Avenue. Appliances included cold flat. Section 8 welcome. Affordable rents. Call 860-752-9060.

Room For Rent

Rooms for rent in Hartford’s West End. Utilities included. \$140 weekly. Security

deposit. Call 860-888-6655.

For Rent

Spacious 3 Bedroom apartments on the 2nd floor, West End. Cold Flat. 1 month security and 1 month rent. Available NOW. Section 8 welcome. Call 860-888-6655.

Rooms for Rent East Hartford

Nice, clean rooms for rent, 311 Tolland Street, East Hartford. \$160/week, includes all utilities. Call Robert, 860-308-5455.

Apartamentos Para Alquiler:

Apartamentos modernos localizados en Hartford. Studios, Uno, Dos, Tres y Cuatro cuartos dormitorios disponibles. Estacionamiento disponible. ** Aceptamos Section 8**. Rates Starting at: Studio- \$615; 1BR- \$700; 2BR- \$800; 3BR- \$900; 4BR-\$1000. Para mas informacion por favor llamar al 860-549-3000.

Church Space for Rent

Existing church building, highly visible and on the bus line. The space provides a sanctuary, pastor’s office, administrative office, plenty of classroom/ministry space, multiple bathrooms and off-street parking. This is an excellent space for a growing congregation. For more details call: Bill, 860-608-6998.

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El Informativo Latino

Maestros Y Padres De Familia Se Oponen A Reapertura De Las Escuelas

Los padres de familia y educadores del Estado se manifiestan contra los planes de reapertura de las escuelas en las gradas del Capitolio, abogando por un regreso a la escuela seguro y totalmente financiado.

El grupo recientemente formado llamado Defensores de las Escuelas Públicas de Connecticut, dijo que el plan de reapertura de las escuelas en el Estado es peligroso e irresponsable.

“¿Cómo vamos a enviar a nuestros hijos de regreso a un edificio en llamas?” preguntó una mujer, dirigiéndose a la multitud el miércoles.

Leslie Blatteau, una maestra de New Haven, dijo: “Necesitamos frenar el aprendizaje en persona. Necesitamos financiar por completo el aprendizaje remoto para que sea reflexivo, atractivo y esté informado sobre el trauma. Y necesitamos alivio económico para las familias de Connecticut”.

Las escuelas públicas de New Haven, por ejemplo, se lanzarán al Departamento de Educación del estado para comenzar el año escolar “solo en línea”.

Hasta que no haya una vacuna COVID-19 no es seguro juntar a los niños. No se quiere una escuela en persona este otoño ni un modelo híbrido porque es solo cuestión de tiempo para que el brote se propague con las escuelas abiertas.

Cuando se les preguntó por qué están pidiendo que los niños no vayan a la escuela en persona, respondieron que Connecticut tiene una de las tasas de COVID más bajas del país por lo que volver a la escuela es correr un riesgo innecesario.

Como parte de la manifestación pusieron una instalación de arte que muestra cómo los niños, incluso cuando están separados, están conectados y qué tan rápido se puede propagar el virus en un entorno escolar.

Regresar a la escuela en persona en este momento no es seguro para los estudiantes, las familias o el personal de la escuela. La instrucción presencial debe incorporarse gradualmente después de un retorno inicial al aprendizaje a distancia, y debe respaldarse con pruebas generalizadas y rastreo de contactos. La financiación estatal adicional adecuada debe cubrir completamente los costos de PPE, modificación física del aula, mayor personal de conserjes, clases más pequeñas y personal adicional de salud mental.

Los distritos escolares deben planificar y financiar completamente un aprendizaje a distancia más equitativo, significativo e informado sobre el trauma. Los educadores deben estar capacitados para brindar un aprendizaje a distancia de calidad, lo cual es muy diferente de la transición de

emergencia al aprendizaje en línea que ocurrió la primavera pasada.

La educación a distancia debe ir acompañada de ayuda económica y de apoyo a las familias. Esto incluye apoyar el compromiso del gobernador Lamont de proporcionar WiFi gratis para todos en Connecticut y servicios de asesoramiento que se extienden más allá del edificio escolar para apoyar a los estudiantes dentro de su comunidad y / o contextos familiares únicos. La causa para una reapertura segura es tanto una cuestión de justicia social como racial.

La Dra. Alison Galvani, Directora del Centro de Yale para el Modelado y Análisis de Enfermedades Infecciosas (CIDMA), afirmó que la transmisión silenciosa es responsable del más del 50 por ciento de los casos, incluidos los niños, y que sería “imprudente que las escuelas abran sus puertas.

Un estudio respalda los hallazgos del Dr. Galvani de que los niños transmiten el virus al mismo ritmo que los adultos, está claro que reabrir físicamente las escuelas de cualquier manera no es seguro ni práctico.

Además, el CDC ha declarado explícitamente que la reapertura de la escuela es el “mayor riesgo” de propagación del virus. A su vez, la Escuela de Salud Pública de Yale le informó al gobernador Lamont que “existen brechas sustanciales en el conocimiento sobre aspectos críticos de la enfermedad ... y que el cierre de escuelas y la orden de permanecer en el hogar del estado redujeron en gran medida la transmisión del virus.”

Las familias y el personal escolar de Connecticut necesitan una estrategia segura y financiada para reabrir nuestras escuelas. No solo es nuestra responsabilidad proteger a los niños, los maestros y sus familias, sino que también la propagación del coronavirus en las escuelas conducirá inevitablemente a la propagación de la comunidad más allá de las escuelas, y eso afectará a todos los residentes de Connecticut. By Iris Rodriguez

Vista Publica Cuestionarán Aumento De Tarifa Eléctrica En Connecticut.

Regulador es de Connecticut están programados para celebrar una audiencia para revisar un reciente aumento de la tarifa eléctrica de Eversource que tomó por sorpresa a muchos clientes.

La Autoridad Reguladora de Servicios Públicos, o PURA, programó la audiencia para hoy sobre los aumentos de tarifas que entraron en vigencia el 1 de julio, pero fueron suspendidos temporalmente por la autoridad el 31 de julio en medio de quejas de clientes y legisladores estatales.

El senador estadounidense Richard Blumenthal, un demócrata de Connecticut, dijo que testificará para instar a PURA a tomar varias medidas, incluida la reducción de los aumentos de tarifas, considerar dividir Eversource y crear una empresa de servicios públicos estatal, eliminar las ganancias garantizadas para la empresa y vincular tasas de rendimiento.

Eversource, la distribuidora de electricidad más grande del estado, y United Illuminating también enfrentan críticas por sus respuestas a la tormenta tropical Isaías, que dejó sin electricidad a cientos de miles de hogares y negocios en Connecticut el 4 de agosto y dejó a algunos en la oscuridad por más de una semana.

PURA había aprobado los aumentos de tarifas del 1 de julio. Pero los clientes han inundado la agencia con quejas, algunos dicen que sus facturas se han duplicado a más de \$300 al mes y otros dicen que sus facturas son cientos de dólares más altas.

Los funcionarios de Eversource han notado que PURA aprobó los aumentos de tarifas. La empresa de servicios públicos también dijo que los contribuyentes a las facturas más altas incluyeron un mayor uso de electricidad en julio debido al clima cálido y un mandato estatal que requiere que Eversource compre electricidad de la planta de energía nuclear Millstone en Waterford.

Hay casi 1,000 personas inscritas para testificar durante una audiencia virtual sobre los aumentos de la factura de Eversource ante la Autoridad Reguladora de Servicios

Music and Movies at Real Art Ways

Head over to Real Art Ways (RAW) every Saturday this month for live music and a movie. Tickets are free, but due to COVID we have limited space. Please wear a mask and practice proper social distancing.

Both the concert and the movies are held outdoors in the parking lot behind Real Art Ways, 56 Arbor Street, Hartford.

Music begins at 6:30 followed by the film at 7:45.

You can make your reservations online. www.realartways.org/event. Don't wait, events sell out fast.

Saturday, September 5

Music: Nelson Bello and Friends
Movie: Buena Vista Social Club

Saturday, September 12

Music: Cuatro Puntos Ensemble
Movie: The Music of Strangers

Saturday, September 19

Music: The New Mosaic
Movie: Standing in the Shadows of Motown

Saturday, September 26

Music: Goza
Movie: Cinema Paradiso

Support of these concerts comes from the Evelyn W. Preston Fund

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Hazel Bailey, AKA Hazel Lee Bailey (20-00679)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated August 24, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Zayas
Clerk

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